



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Governmental & Legislative
Affairs Director

September 3, 2015

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 229 (Roth) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Brown:

The County of San Bernardino respectfully requests your signature on SB 229. This legislation would increase the number of judgeships in the Inland Empire.

California's state court system, the largest in the nation, serves 38 million people. The state's fastest growing counties, including San Bernardino County, are facing a critical shortage of judges to hear the cases of our most vulnerable citizens. In 2007, the Legislature authorized 50 new trial court judges. However, the positions remain unfunded and unfilled.

San Bernardino County Superior Court is one of the most underfunded, under judged and staffed courts in the state, which handles some of the highest caseloads statewide. On December 13, 2012, the California Judicial Council voted to approve the 2012 Judicial Needs Assessment which determined the County of San Bernardino needed 156 judges to meet the community's needs. Unfortunately, to date, only 67 of those judges are funded.

The budget reductions to the Court over the years have resulted in drastic operational and service cuts throughout the County. Over the last year, courts have closed in four San Bernardino County communities: Chino, Twin Peaks, Big Bear, and Needles. However, in spite of these closures, San Bernardino County Court is still projecting a significant shortfall.

For these reasons, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests your signature on SB 229. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

JAMES RAMOS
Board of Supervisors Chairman
Third District Supervisor
County of San Bernardino

c: Honorable Richard Roth

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